

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows



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April, 2013

www.sitmnev.org

President's Message

Hope everyone had a wonderful Easter!! April is springing forward with full vigor!!

It was amazing to see all our members, guests, and neighboring clubs at our April 4th meeting where Nevada Deputy Attorney General, Michon Martin spoke about current Nevada Legislation regarding sex trafficking. She was such a dynamic speaker about such a horrific issue, that so many of us left wanting to do something to help. Our membership approved a letter to our legislators in support of the legislation.

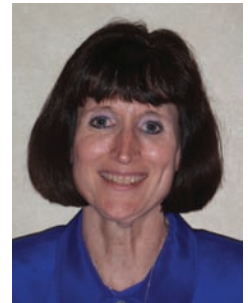
We were also very fortunate to induct three new members at our April Business Meeting. The Recruitment and Retention Committee hosted a social the same evening for all our new members during the past 12 months, their committee members and the Board at Tracy Turner's beautiful home. It was such a nice touch and made our new members feel especially welcome!! Thank you again to Jean Neddenriep, Jennifer Burnitt, Tracy Turner, and all the members of the Recruitment and Retention Committee and the Board members that attended. It was a relaxing evening after a busy week and a wonderful occasion to get to know everyone better!!

Congratulations to the newly elected 2013-14 Board!! The enthusiasm and support our members show for one another is outstanding!!

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Please plan to attend and bring guests to our April 25th scholarship luncheon where SI President Alice Wells will be our speaker. Governor Janice is coming and we hope to give our President a huge welcome that she won't forget. I am looking forward to representing our club at the SNR Conference April 26-28th and hope that many of you also plan to attend.



President Becky

Congratulations 2013-14 SITM Officers

Congratulations and thanks to all members who agreed to stand for election to the SITM Board. A big thank you to Nominating Committee Coordinator Marilyn Pearson, and members Dot Watts and Doris Phelps for putting together such a fine slate to lead our club and conducting the elections. .

The 2013-14 SITM Officers, Directors and Delegates are:

President	Service Fund Treasurer
*Margie Hermanson	Kay Dunham
President-Elect	Directors
Pam Sutton	*Becky Moody
Vice President,	*Patty Downs
Service Committees	Delegate 1 Year
Jennifer Burnitt	*Mich Glazier
Vice President,	Alternate Delegate 1 Year
Technical Committees	*Penney Leezy
Vivian Ruiz	Delegate 2 Year
Corresponding Secretary	Bev Perkins
Dot Watts	Alternate Delegate 2 Year
Recording Secretary	Enid Oliver
Sarah Galetti	
General Fund Treasurer	*Completing a term of office
*Vicki Schultz	

April Board & Business Update

By Faye I. Andersen

Welcome to new members Suzanne Dotten, Christina Fegert and Anna McCardle, who were inducted at the April Business Meeting. Suzanne is a retired RN. She was sponsored by Lynn Robins. Christina does Community Relations work for Northern Nevada Hopes. She was sponsored by Valerie Summersille-Hahn. Anna McCardle is the Regional Sales Manager for the Atlantis Casino Resort and Spa. She was sponsored by Doris Phelps.

2013-14 SITM Board Elected

Members elected the Officers, Directors and Delegates for the 2013-14 Club Year, who will take office July 1 with President-Elect Margie Hermanson. For a complete listing see page 1.

New Club Budget Reviewed

Finance Committee Co-Coordinator Paula Ringkob, along with General Fund Treasurer Vicki Schultz and Service Treasurer Betsy Dart presented the Club Budget for 2013-14. The budget will be presented one more time at the May Business Meeting and then be voted upon by the membership.

SITM Taxes Complete

Gayle Baxley, CPA and member of SITM has prepared the club's Federal Form 990-EZ and it has been filed with the IRS. The Board also reviewed some recommendations made by Gayle following review of the club's records. Under considerations are changes to reporting requirements for individuals receiving scholarships from SITM, in accordance with IRS rules.

SITM Weighs in on Human Trafficking

Following the April 4 presentation on human trafficking by Michon Martin, Chief Deputy District Attorney for Nevada, members felt strongly about supporting pending legislation to stop trafficking. As a result, President Becky sent a letter on behalf of the club supporting passage of AB 67 and AB 146 in the Nevada Legislature. A copy of the letter is attached to the Friday Digest.

SNR Basket Donation

Each year at Sierra Nevada Region Conference, clubs are asked to bring a basket that can be used as a raffle prize. Penney Leezy, for the second year running, has agreed to donate some of her very popular jewelry for the lucky recipient of our "basket". Thank you Penney.

61st Club Joins SNR

A new club was chartered last week with 37 members. It is SI Folsom El Dorado Hills. As is customary to welcome a new club, SITM sent them well wishes, along with a check for \$100 to help them start their club treasury.

SITM's Youth Need Your Help

The Education Youth Committee is looking for scholarship applications for Youth Scholarships and nominations of Unsung Heroes to be honored at the May 23 Thanks to Youth Luncheon. Please see Carol Dinneen.

The Thanks to Youth Committee is seeking your help to secure TTY sponsors, raffle prizes and to sell tickets, at \$25 per lunch, for this event. Please see Teresa Mentzer or Michelle Jones.

Happy Dollars for the Volunteers of America

Some \$399 in Happy Dollars for March was raised for Volunteers of America, operators of the Reno Homeless Shelter. April Happy Dollars are designated for Aiden's Gift, a local charity started by a family whose eight-month old baby was affected by shaken baby syndrome caused by a sitter. The nonprofit organization provides money and equipment for children who are disadvantaged or physically handicapped.

Membership Notes

The Board approved a leave of absence for Jean Neddenriep through May 15 for work and travel. Remaining on leave are Mary Mead through May 15 for school; and Lynn Robins through June 30 for medical reasons.

Calendar

- April 18 – Thanks to Youth Committee
- April 23 – Beads of Strength, 5:30 PM, Marilyn Pearson's Home, 1565 Bramble Court, Reno
- April 25 – Education Women's Scholarships – SI President – Alice Wells, Speaker
- April 25 – SNR Board Meeting – Atlantis Hotel Casino
- April 26 – 28 – SNR Spring Conference – Atlantis
- May 2 – Public Awareness – Website – Facebook Committee
- May 7 – Board Meeting – 5:30 PM – Dermody Properties, 5500 Equity Ave.
- May 9 – Business Meeting

You can follow our weekly activities on:



Human Trafficking Topic Draws Big Crowd



Nevada Chief Deputy Attorney General, Michon Martin speaks about Sex Trafficking and legislation pending before the Nevada Legislature at the April 4 SITM meeting.

SITM's April 4 meeting saw record attendance, including our members, District II Director Patricia Papp, visiting Soroptimists from SI Fallon, SI Tahoe Sierra, SI Carson Valley, several distinguished judges, seven participants of the Step 2 program, and many, many guests who all came to hear Nevada Chief Deputy Attorney General, Michon Martin speak about AB 67 on Sex Trafficking.

As a former prosecutor with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office, Michon was dynamic, candid, articulate, and well-spoken for such a young woman and she had everyone's full attention. You could hear a pin drop as she spoke. Her stories about human trafficking were very sad, including how these perpetrators brand their victims, how difficult it is to break the bond between the pimps and their victims and surprisingly it could be anyone's child. Since 1994, 2029 children had been recovered in Las Vegas and the youngest victim was 12.

One of the goals of AB 67 and AB 146 is to restore victims to become survivors. It also defines sex trafficking, stiffens criminal penalties, and provides tools for victims and law enforcement officers. Another bill is AB 311 which will establish a contingency fund for victims. Michon stated that "if we could put away one pimp, that is saving one generation of victims." Her message was very powerful as well as her enthusiasm for trying to making a difference in these victims lives.

SITM sent a letter supporting the passage of AB 67 and AB 146 currently before the Nevada Legislature. Members are also encouraged to contact their legislator and encourage passage of these bills.



The Recruitment and Retention Committee hosted a lighthearted but rejuvenating program at the March 21 meeting. Co-Coordinator Jean Neddenriep gave us a brief history of the membership of SITM from when we were chartered to the present.

At left, Tracy Turner, Teresa Mentzer, and Jennifer Thompson role-played how to recruit prospective members. Jennifer Thompson was a passionate and service oriented recruit.

At right, Jean Neddenriep outlines membership through the years.



Meet Jennifer Thompson

A Lifetime of Horses & Opportunities

By Jennifer Burnitt and Faye I. Andersen

Jennifer Thompson is an accomplished horsewoman, a horse trainer, world traveler and a grieving mother who would like to see some changes in laws regarding drunk driving.

At age seven, Jennifer Thompson began her life-long love affair with horses. She had already spent her early childhood growing up around horses as a little "cowgirl" in Yuba City, California. But, at age seven, for the first time, she competed on the Quarter Horse Circuit. "I think it was a good way for my parents to burn off some of my energy, and get some relief from their little 'Tazmanian Devil'", laughs Jennifer.

Jennifer always rode horses trained by others, but at age 14 her dad finally bought her a horse to train herself. The horse was just two years old (just a baby), but Jennifer had big and swift plans. By the time the horse turned three, the pair not only qualified, "we placed in the top five in two events," Jennifer said. "To me, that was my sign that I could do this!"

And "I could do this" was an understatement. As a trainer, Jennifer went on to win the All American Quarter Horse Congress in Ohio, out of 247 horses, and again out of 179 horses several years later. She also won several World Championships herself, along with students. Today she is an internationally-carded horse judge. "I decided that I needed (at my age) to quit training while I still had all my limbs, and half a brain."

Her work with horses has also been her ticket to world travel. "I am so lucky that I get to meet so many different people, and see so many different places," she says. Among them have been Japan, Amsterdam, Denmark, Germany, Montreal, Australia, Victoria Island and Israel, just to name a few. "And I get paid to do that," Jennifer marvels. "Who'd have thought that the little cowgirl from Yuba City would have ever accomplished that?"

Today, Jennifer works in her father's real estate office, Real Estate Industries. She admits that she wasn't the best student in school, not thinking that math, social studies or geography had anything to do with horse training. "Boy was I wrong," she says. "It is funny how life teaches you these things anyway."

It was her work in that office that introduced her to Soroptimist. Georgia Baker was a regular visitor in her banker role. The two were discussing Jennifer's family one day and Jennifer told her that her daughter, an only child, had been killed by a drunk driver the previous year.

"I was struggling to find my purpose and I needed to totally redefine myself. Needing to help other people was my way of staying positive," said Jennifer. Georgia became Jennifer's sponsor and she was inducted into membership in December 2012.

Her personal challenge is to get drunk driving laws modified to require those who injure or kill others, participate in mandatory community service to talk to schools and groups about their actions and the consequences. This was not the case for the drunk driver who took Jennifer's daughter's life. "I ask for leniency for the girl who killed my daughter, because I thought the judge would make it mandatory for her to speak out. I was wrong. "She could save lives by doing this." she said. And Jennifer is willing to prove it herself, "If I could save one life and save one family from going through this, my job on earth will be well served."



Four generations of family, from left: Jennifer Thompson, Elizabeth Bowker (Grandmother), Susan Lynn (Mom), Whitney Thompson (daughter)



Winning the World Championships

Soroptimist Ruby Award Presented to Becky Blank

Becky Blank of Reno is this year's recipient of SITM's Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women. Becky was selected for her role in founding and commitment to the continuation of Aly's Prom Closet. A donation of \$750 was made in Becky's name to the organization and members brought to the meeting items suitable for donation to Aly's prom closet like purses, dress accessories and jewelry.

Aly's Prom Closet annually provides prom dresses and shoes, hair styling, tuxedo rentals, even donations of flowers and accessories to needy students throughout the Truckee Meadows. Since its founding 12 years ago, some 2,800 teens have attended their high school proms that would not have otherwise done so, but thanks to the operation of Aly's Prom Closet.

The Prom Closet was the brainchild of Stu Gordon, the Executive Director of Family Counseling, who first recognized the need. About that same time, Becky Blank had lost her daughter Aly to an automobile accident and was looking for volunteer opportunities that might give meaning to her daughter's life. According to Becky, daughter Aly loved to attend school proms and dances and was a strong believer in inclusion of all students. The organization bears daughter Aly's name.



Over the course of "prom season", many SITM members volunteer at Aly's Prom Closet. Working last Saturday were President-Elect Margie Hermanson, Bev Perkins and Dot Watts.

Becky's work for the past dozen years has been crucial to the success of the program. While it's only open about three months of the year during prom season, Becky volunteers for the cause year-round, building awareness among teens, securing donations, fundraising and recruiting volunteers to keep the program operating during the prom season. The program has no overhead, thanks to champions like Becky Blank and minimal administrative services are donated by Family Counseling Services.



Presentation of the Soroptimist Ruby Award: For Women Helping Women. From left are Human Rights/Status of Women Co-Coordinator Kelli Viloria; Honoree Becky Blank; Committee Co-Coordinator Dorothy Nash Holmes; and Committee Members Michelle Jones, who introduced Becky.



Perfect Pairings at Wild River Grille

SITM will host its third Perfect Pairing of food and wine on Thursday, May 2, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Wild River Grille, 17 S Virginia Street in downtown Reno. The evening includes four courses of food with perfectly paired wine. Cost is \$40 per person (\$15 goes to SITM). Seating is limited. RSVP to Jennifer Burnitt at 775-284-7856, or JBurnitt@AandHIns.com.

New Member Induction and Meet and Greet Social



Three new members were induced at the April business Meeting. Receiving their pins here are Suzanne Dotten, pinned by Sue Camp, but sponsored by Lynn Robins; Anna McCardle, pinned and sponsored by Doris Phelps; Christina Fegert, pinned by Judge Connie Steinheimer. Her sponsor, Valerie Summersille-Hahn was conducting the ceremony.



SI President Alice Wells to Speak at Annual Scholarship Luncheon

By Pam Robinson

The Education Women Committee has once again planned an inspirational and moving scholarship program for our April 25 meeting. In addition to presenting scholarship awards to eight undergraduates and three graduates, SI President Alice Wells will be our keynote speaker. We are very excited and honored that she will be with us at this special event.

Our scholarship recipients have overcome many obstacles and are working hard to achieve a better life for themselves and their families. Here's a preview of



some of the women: One of our recipients is the mother of seven children who is legally deaf. One of the others is studying human development with a specialty in trafficking. And we're also honoring our WOA recipient, Danielle Matthews, with a scholarship. Danielle has also received a Region WOA award. \$35,000 in scholarships will be awarded!

This is an excellent meeting to invite guests to learn more about Soroptimist and our signature scholarship project! The Education Women Committee coordinators are Sue Camp and Tracy Turner.

Thanks to Youth Committee is Gearing Up! Plan to Attend the Kick-Off Luncheon on April 18

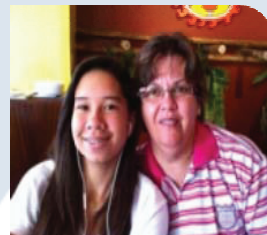
By Pam Robinson



Our Thanks to Youth annual fundraising luncheon will be held on Thursday, May 23. Once again, Mr. John Farahi and the Atlantis are generously underwriting our luncheon. The Education Youth Committee has chosen some excellent scholarship recipients and unsung heroes. We will be recognizing six unsung heroes and five scholarship recipients. Emmy-award winning author and reporter, Erin Breen, will emcee the program and introduce the amazing young people.

You will hear more about Thanks to Youth at our SITM kick-off meeting on Thursday, April 18. We have fun activities and raffle prizes planned. Tickets for the event this year are \$25/each and will be distributed at this meeting. Sponsorships will be available in the amounts of \$1,500, \$1,000 and \$500. Once again, SITM members will have the opportunity to sponsor a table for eight for the special price of \$250.

Start thinking about potential sponsors and guests, and plan to attend the kick-off luncheon on April 18! Please contact Thanks to Youth coordinators, Cindy Burk and Pam Robinson, with any questions, ideas, input, and sponsor names!



“Our organization is comprised of professional women that work in different areas, and the interaction with a diversity of opinions has been very important in my professional life and in forming my leadership skills. My collaboration for the Laurel is an incentive to continue the Soroptimist work.”

~Ana Cecilia Fagundes~

Laurel Society

What is the Laurel Society and why was it established?

The Laurel Society was established in 1994 to honor individuals supporting the Soroptimist mission. The Laurel Society was created to show appreciation and recognition to donors for gifts that would ensure continued funding for Soroptimist programs.

How do I become a member of the Laurel Society?

Normally individuals make a personal contribution to Soroptimist to become a member of the Laurel Society. An individual can also be honored with Laurel Society membership by her family, her club or her friends as recognition for exemplary service, leadership recognition and special life events.

How are my Laurel Society contributions used?

Laurel Society contributions are used to fund Soroptimist programs and awards: Women’s Opportunity Awards, Soroptimist Club Grants for Women and Girls, Soroptimists STOP Trafficking, Violet Richardson Awards, Ruby Award and the Workplace Campaign to End Domestic Violence. For more information about how contributions are used, review SIA’s [Annual Report](#).

What kind of recognition is given for Laurel Society contributions?

All Laurel Society members are acknowledged with a thank you letter and pin representing their membership level. Recognition is also often given at region conferences. Laurel Society members receive exclusive invitations to SIA functions, such as the Laurel Society event at convention.

Please note that because of the large number of Laurel Society members, invitations will be extended to active Laurel Society members - those who have contributed an additional \$250 or more to their Laurel Society in the current biennium.

The recognition levels are:

<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Level Designation</u>	<u>Stone Color</u>
\$1000-\$2,499	Attaché	Sapphire
\$2,500-\$4,999	Envoy	Ruby
\$5,000-\$9,999	Diplomat	Diamond
\$10,000-\$24,999	Ambassador	Pearl
\$25,000 or more	Inner Circle	Custom Pin

What meaning does the Laurel Society pin hold?

The Laurel Society pin was designed to include the laurel leaves from the Soroptimist emblem. The laurel leaves are symbolic of victory and typify friendship and success, much like committed Soroptimist members. Diplomatic terms were chosen to describe the levels of membership because international goodwill and understanding is the cornerstone of Soroptimist service. Members of the Laurel Society are emissaries of the Soroptimist mission to improve the lives of women and girls. The Laurel Society pin holds SIA's "S" logo because the Laurel Society is a recognition program of Soroptimist International of the Americas.

**Can a club become a member of the Laurel Society?**

No. The Laurel Society is a recognition program for individuals. If a club wishes to honor someone with Laurel Society membership, they should complete a Laurel Society contribution [form](#) naming the individual and submit the form to headquarters along with their contribution. Clubs are encouraged to support Soroptimist programs through Club Giving and Founders Pennies.

Is it possible to make a donation to another member's Laurel Society?

Yes. Soroptimist often receives donations in honor of a member for exemplary service or in celebration of an anniversary, birthday or in memory of a loved one. The contribution is credited to the member's Laurel Society at the request of the donor. The donor should complete the Laurel Society contribution [form](#) noting the honoree's name and send it to headquarters along with the contribution. Clubs wishing to honor an individual with Laurel Society membership must remit the name of the member when submitting the initial contribution.

Does the contribution need to be paid all at once?

Each unrestricted gift of \$100 or more from a member—or in honor of a member—to Soroptimist is credited toward membership in the Laurel Society. Headquarters tracks total contributions and will send a pin when the member reaches the next recognition level.

If I set up a monthly contribution, will it count toward my Laurel Society membership?

Yes. Contributions received through monthly giving are credited to the donor's Laurel Society. The Monthly Giving Program is available for members who want to support Soroptimist programs and work toward membership in the Laurel Society. Monthly giving is easy for the donor, decreases the expenses of fundraising, and puts more money into Soroptimist programs. Click [here](#) to enroll online or download an enrollment form.

If my employer will match my contribution, will it be credited to my total Laurel Society contributions?

Matching gifts are a great way for Soroptimists and supporters to maximize personal contributions and increase the impact of their gift. By taking advantage of a company's matching gift benefit, you may be able to double, or even triple, the amount of your contribution. Check with your company's human resources or payroll department to see if the company offers a matching gift program. Ask for the donation guidelines and a matching gift form. Complete the matching gift form and submit it to Soroptimist along with your contribution. SIA will verify your gift and return the form to your company. The company sends their matching gift directly to SIA.

Will Soroptimist accept any gifts other than cash for recognition in the Laurel Society?

Soroptimist will gratefully accept gifts of stock and property toward membership in the Laurel Society. The donor is credited for the cash value of the gift at the appropriate contribution level. Contact Nancy Montvydas, Senior Director of Development, at nancym@soroptimist.org if you wish to give stock, property or gifts other than cash.

How can a Laurel Society member find out the total contributions credited to her name?

This information can be obtained by sending an e-mail request to siahq@soroptimist.org.

SITM Update

Soroptimist International of Truckee Meadows

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SITM meets every Thursday noon at the Atlantis Resort & Spa, 3800 South Virginia Street in Reno, second floor convention center. For reservations www.sitruckeemeadows@hotmail.com. no later than 7 p.m. on the Tuesday before the meeting. Lunch is \$16.

Soroptimist is an international organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls, in local communities and throughout the world.



For information about our organization, check out these Soroptimist Websites:
Sierra Nevada Region: www.soroptimistsnr.org
Soroptimist International of the Americas: www.soroptimist.org
Soroptimist International: www.soroptimistinternational.org



Did you know . . .

See What \$10 Can Buy an SITM Member

Want to join the Laurel Society for just \$10? You could, if you participate in an "SITM Only" drawing. SITM member Kay Dunham is serving as the Sierra Nevada's Region Fundraising Liaison to Soroptimist International of the Americas. One of her duties is to promote and fundraise for the Laurel Society. For just \$10, out of a pool of 100 you could win the Laurel Society pin with a blue sapphire. Kay is offering a drawing just for SITM members, as long as she can sell 100 of the \$10 bookmarks. This offer is available up until SNR Conference later this month.

